SOUVENIR BOOKLET

DR. GARDNER'S MUSEUM OF..

MAGIC and SUPERSTITION

GATLINBURG TENNESSEE

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BY

JOHN H. STEELE

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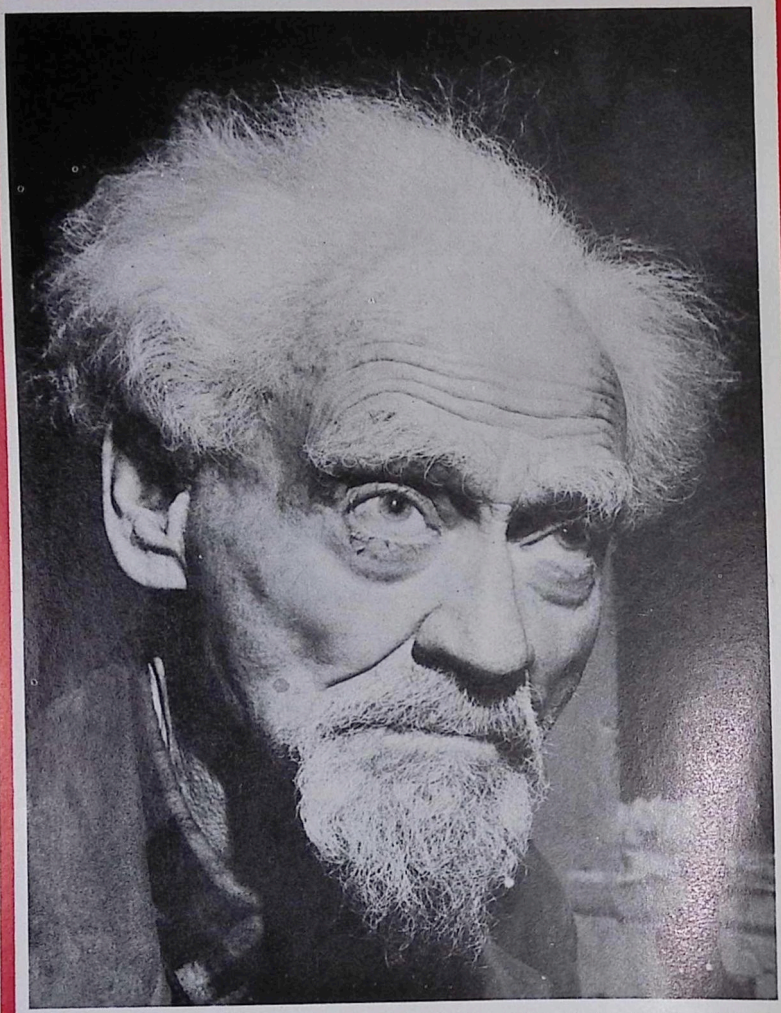


Gerald B. Gardner, "King of British Witches". Before his death in 1964, Gardner wrote several books dealing with the Occult and assembled the world's foremost collection of witchcraft artifacts at the "Witches Mill", Isle of Man, Great Britain. Many of the objects seen in this Museum were part of that famous collection.

INTRODUCTION

There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio,
Than are dreamt of in your philosophy.

Hamlet's words are much in our minds today, for in the last half of the 20th Century we are witnessing a rebirth of interest in the occult that is unprecedented in world history. Books on every aspect of the supernatural sell briskly; movies and television programs find large audiences for stories of ghosts, witchcraft, diabolic possession, or the foretelling of the future. Astrology columns are carried in two-thirds of the nation's daily newspapers, with an estimated potential readership of 40 million; it is hard to find someone who doesn't know under which astrological sign he was born, at the very least. We hear about flying saucers, and we wonder whether this planet has been visited by superbeings from other worlds who brought our ancestors gifts of knowledge. Every city has at least one bookstore devoted to the occult arts. Whitecoated scientists at universities study the phenomenon of E.S.P., and conclude that it exists. Witches' covens flourish across the United States, and there are churches devoted to Satanism as well as to spiritualism.

Through drugs, meditation, yoga, or Eastern religions many of the younger generation delve into the mysteries within, and conclude that the unconscious the psychologists have postulated is very real and is perhaps the seat of our greatest wisdom. "Man's perceptions", said William Blake, "are not bounded by the organs of perception"; more and more Twentieth Century Man is guided by this statement; more and more he becomes aware that there may be within him a sixth sense, imperceptible to consciousness by any of the familiar five senses, but manifesting itself in dreams, myths, fairy tales, hunches, and strange flashes of "I have been here before".

To many, all such things are evidence only of childish ignorance and primitive superstition, but the rationality that is fashionable today is a comparatively recent attitude – at the most a couple of hundred years old. For almost all of recorded history it has been allowed that there are forces of good and evil, of light and dark; everywhere they reside, in the lovely forms of nature as much as in the heart of man. These forces were personified to make them more real to

human imagination: they are the gods and goddesses, the devils and demons, that all cultures have worshiped and propitiated.

Deep, deep within our own racial unconscious, these forces are still recognised. We may do nothing more than refuse to walk under a ladder, or wear something borrowed for the wedding, or peek idly at the astrology column in the newspaper – but by these trivial actions we are accepting an allegiance to powers that are greater than ourselves, and that cannot be rationally understood. We deprecate such practices as superstition and feel vaguely ashamed – but we do them!

So, as you pass through the fascinating halls of Dr. Gardner's Museum of Magic and Superstition reflect, if you will, that here is not just a collection of meaningless thrills and sensations. Here you make touch with a large part of yourself. The witch-doctors and the warlocks, the magicians and the alchemists, the astrologers and the mediums – all *knew* something.

What they know is perhaps what we have forgotten.

Perhaps here we may remember.

THE PRIMITIVE GALLERY

We begin our tour through the many levels of the mind of man with the Primitive Gallery – but what do we mean by "Primitive"? As we look at the strange artifacts in the showcases, it might seem to us that the examples from New Guinea, such as the HUMAN BONE DAGGERS, and the MAGIC BAG AND STICKS, indicate that this mountainous island off the north coast of Australia shelters a naive and superstitious people. So, perhaps, will the archeologist of the 25th century conclude about our own culture. Every society tries as best it can to come to terms with the mysteries of life. Those who have made it their business to study primitive communities have reported that they are only "backward" in technological terms; if they are left alone, they manage very well – and, in fact, often seem to have developed a mastery over certain strange forces that is foreign to us.

Take, for example, the dancing Witchdoctor who greets you from his corner. Unless dozens of level-headed visitors to New Guinea are lying, he and his fellows have managed on

occasion to bring rain out of clear skies, heal the sick, raise the dead, influence wild animals, and cause enemies to wither and die. Where his power lies, doubtless even he has no idea; it may be that he can harness the mass telepathic output of his followers in some way as unintelligible to us as electrical current would seem to our ancestors. He perhaps would declare that his MAGIC NECKLACE held his powers, and if you tried to steal it he would concoct a deadly potion in his POISON VESSEL and insinuate it into your drink. But if he did, it would mean your end, for many savage witchdoctors have a knowledge of local herbs that would put to shame a western Ph.D. in Botany.

A principal function of this savage medicine man is to combat the Marsalai, represented here by the CARVED FUNGUS – SPIRIT FACE. To the Arapesh tribe, these spirits of the dead own the land, and the living are but their tenants. No one dares venture into their abode, but the witchdoctor knows methods of placating them.

Africa

The bustle of a new national consciousness now resounds across the once-Dark Continent, but there are still many places where legend and reality meet. In the land of the Zulus, it is still believed by many that clouds and lightning are living organisms and that sorcerers can call spirits by whistling. Ghosts, once abroad, can pervert all human activities. To prevent such a calamity, relatives place the ashes of their dead in a NATIVE URN, or frighten them off with a NOISE MAKER, similar to our Ethiopian specimen. Africans still wear ELEPHANT HAIR BRACELETS, hoping by sympathetic magic to acquire some of the strength of the beast. The Ubangi believe that money must possess a soul, by virtue of

its value. If coins, such as our KISSI PENNIES, are broken, the soul and thus the value disappears – a mishap that can only be rectified by repair attention from your Friendly Neighborhood Witchdoctor.

America

The mythological heritage of the North American Indians is rich, imaginative, and endlessly fascinating. Success in hunting was of paramount importance; such FETISHES as the ZUNI BEAR, PLAINS BUFFALO IMAGE, and CARVED ANTLER are examples of the Indians' supplication for divine assistance in their endeavours.

The TURQUOISE FETISH is Zuni Indian, but the reverence shown by the Southwest tribes to the beautiful "Turkish" stone unwittingly echoes that shown all over Asia and in many parts of Africa. Arabs call it the "lucky stone", and Buddhists pay it honor because of a legend in which a turquoise helped the Buddha to destroy a vile monster.

Also reflecting universal beliefs is the AMERICAN INDIAN MASK. Many primitive peoples do not have the same sense of individuality that we do. They often tend to believe that a man has several souls, both human and animal, past and present. The donning of a mask obliterates his familiar personality, and he literally becomes something different. The psychic identity assumed by the person who wears this mask may be imagined.

Village Genesis

This remarkably impressive carving comes from Chimunda village on New Guinea's Keram River. The story is that the woman lived by herself near the river and married a crocodile, which sired her children. The animal ate all of them except for boy twins; when they grew up they swore they would kill the father crocodile, but the mother managed to dissuade them by appealing to their filial respect.

Gable Mask

From the house of a prominent villager in the Blackwater River area of the same island. The face represents a revered ancestor whose power, vigilance, and superhuman appearance frightens away evil spirits. The custom of placing such

a supernatural guardian before the threshold is echoed in many parts of the world.

We have already referred to the WITCHDOCTOR who pirouettes before you next, reminding us of the superlative importance of the dance in magical rituals. The primitive ANCESTOR FIGURE denotes another aspect: in many cultures the ghosts of the tribe's forebears are believed to watch eternally, ready to impart their enshrined wisdom if the right incantations are said.

Voodoo

When the slaves came to the Caribbean they brought with them a variety of primitive religions. On the island of Haiti, in particular, these merged with an incomplete understanding of Catholicism to give birth to what we call Voodoo. This synthesis was never completed, and there remain variations of this savage and orgiastic religion.

For religion it is. Devotees worship many gods, although they allow that there is one major god – BON DIEU, who is too remote and important to concern himself with human troubles. The lesser ones are known as LOAS, and the follower of Voodoo seeks to incorporate a LOA into himself by writhing and leaping through a dance, while drums bang out complex rhythms. When just the right rhythm is found for an individual LOA, the dancer takes it up, and the LOA enters his soul.

His physical and mental powers are immediately heightened; he becomes god-like himself.

Animals will often be sacrificed to appease the spirits, as we show here. The religion is strictly Dionysian, and dances often end in wholesale copulation. There are spirits of death, too, and the stories of the zombies, the walking dead, are well-known in the western world. Haitians are convinced that their island is populated with ghosts; the soul, or DUPPY, of the dead man will linger near his body for nine days, and it is not till a year and a half have gone by that his grave will finally be closed. Voodoo is indeed a strange, savage, frightening religion, and many of its practices are still kept secret from the eye of the sceptical white man.

The Evil Eye

We meet here the first examples of the several in the museum of the Evil Eye, and some comment is indicated. Everywhere, at all times, man has identified and feared the "Evil Look"; nothing has been a greater source of magic, for only the wizard's spells can avert the harm that comes from the baleful stare of one possessed with malign powers. The oldest mentions of the Evil Eye were written by Babylonians in cuneiform on clay tablets. Among many in the Bible are several by Jesus, notably Mark VII, 22, where Our Lord denounces "thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, and evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness..." The Arabs sought to escape by flattery – "the Beautiful Eye". Muhammed knew its powers. Egyptians fought back by painting the rival Two Eyes, which stood for the sun and the moon, on funerary equipment.

Even today, the belief is widespread that envy can project harm through the eye, and we will not be rash as to scorn completely such a theory. The eye, after all, is the window of the mind, and we are only on the threshold of understanding its powers. One day scientists may confirm the claims of devotees of the occult that a person may train himself so that he may influence matter with his thoughts.

EARLY CIVILIZATIONS

Your attention in this section will immediately be taken by the figure of the MESOPOTAMIAN PROPHET, practising the art of divination by the ancient method of examining the liver of a sheep.

The aim of divination is always to ascertain the Will of God and so to know the future, for an individual or for a nation. The Romans called those versed in the art *extispices*, and believed the practice originated in Etruria; however, it is much older, and it was certainly practiced in Babylon more than two thousand years before Christ. The Book of Ezekiel in the Bible (XXI, 21) quotes the prophet as saying: "For the King of Babylon stood at the parting of the way, at the head of the two ways: he made arrows bright, he consulted with images, he looked in the liver".

It was believed in Middle East countries that the seat of all emotions was the liver, not the heart, and that each passion had its own place. Students learned the meanings of more than 50 sections of the liver, and by examining one taken from an animal it was possible to forecast what events were in store. The art was passed on in accredited schools; it was believed that it had originated in divine revelation.

Ancient Egypt

From one of the world's oldest civilizations, Ancient Egypt, we have gathered some interesting exhibits to illustrate their occult beliefs.

Plutarch said the PYRAMID is the first of all forms: its specifications are indeed richly symbolic – four triangles on a square base. The triangle represents perfection; the square, the four elements – earth, air, fire and water. The apex points to God, so the whole edifice expresses domination over the four quarters of earth and heaven. Originally the pyramid was used as an altar dedicated to the sun, and it was only later that the Pharaohs built them as tombs for their royal bones and belongings, hoping that the pyramids would be impenetrable to thieves. In every case of which we have knowledge, their spirits have been disappointed.

Mystics hold that the measurements of the Great Pyramid of Gizeh coincide with astrological and geographical data, and the science of "pyramidology" explores these strange and often striking similarities. The secrets left by the Egyptians in the design of the pyramids are supposed to have been hidden in the Tarot cards.

The METAL ANKH is often seen today. This ancient symbol of the soul's life after death apparently originated in Egypt. A loincloth, a mirror for the gods, a phallus, and a winged globe are among the theories suggested for its distinctive shape; it has also been interpreted as Typhon, or Set, chained to prevent him from spreading evil. It was always placed on mummies, to ensure immortality. The Ankh is also known as the CRUX ANSATA.

THE METAL TET is also known as Tat, Zad, etc. The symbol of the tet represents the backbone of the murdered god Osiris or, some say, the tree in which his body was afterwards enclosed. It was regarded as a prime symbol of durability and security, and was worn as an amulet as protection from enemies.

The EGYPTIAN HEART SCARAB beetle (Ateuchus sacer) deposits its egg in dung, rolls it into a ball, and covers it with earth; thus, when the hatchling emerges, a supply of food is available. The ancient Egyptians observed this process and concluded that the scarab was male and was born anew in the egg it had made. So, the scarab had the secret of immortal life and served as a worthy symbol of resurrection and the rising sun. To wear an amulet such as this one preserved the owner from all misfortunes – including old age.

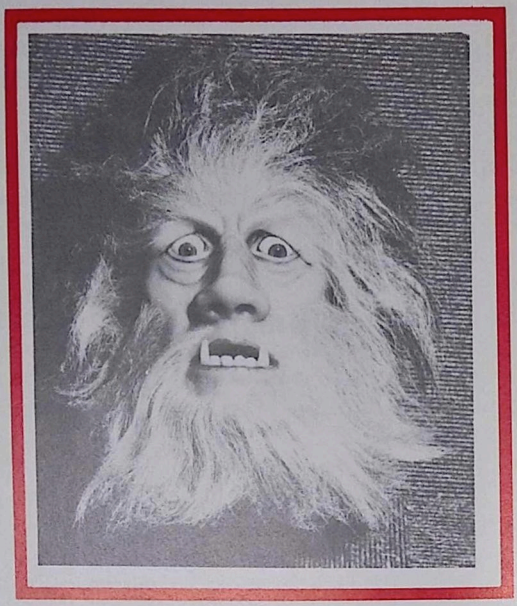
NECKLACE WITH BA PENDANT – Egyptian 663 to 332 B.C. The Egyptians saw man as made up of *Khaybet*, the Shadow; *Sahu*, the Mummy; and *Ba*, the Soul. Ba was shown as a man-headed falcon; this bird was often associated by the sages of the Nile with the sun and with the soul, hovering over the body, wishing to return. A BA AMULET such as this one was regarded as powerful medicine to aid the resurrection of the mummy on which it would be laid, so that when the great moment arrives the departed may find eternal life.

BABYLONIAN DEMON. The great Creation myth of Assyria-Babylon is a stirring tale in which the great hero Marduk defeats the evil goddess Tiamat, orders the Earth, and creates Man. But his victory was not complete. In the underworld dwell countless legions of demons – ruthless and malignant spirits who bring disease and untimely death, quarrels and discord, and withering in the fields. They are heedless of any supplications, but they can be controlled by a qualified exorcist, who, with fitting rituals, says these words:

> Evil ALU, turn thy breast and depart!
> O, inhabitant of the ruins, get thee to thy ruins;
> For the great Lord Ea has sent me:
> He has made his incantation fitting for my mouth,
> He has given into my hand the cauldron for the Seven,
> According to the holy ordinances.

The Werewolf

The belief that possessed individuals had the power to turn themselves into animals is widespread. In Europe, witches became cats, or hares, or toads; the African witchdoctor prowled the jungle at night transformed into a leopard; in China roamed terrible were-tigers, and there have been reports of were-crocodiles in Egypt. The Western tradition, first popularized by Lon Chaney's film *The Wolf Man*, had its



most notable exponent in a Frenchman called Gilles Garnier. Killing little girls seems to have been Garnier's failing; he clawed them to bits and dined on the bodies, sometimes taking choice morsels home to his wife. He swore that he physically changed his shape, and in 1574 he was burned at the stake. There are many stories of wolves that have been wounded, usually by the amputation of a paw, and then next day a person has been found with a hand missing. The connection between the transformation of a human into a wolf at the time of full moon probably refers to man's instinctive feeling that the phases of the moon affect his behavior: admission records at mental hospitals and reports of apparently meaningless crimes at the time of full moon are statistically much higher, even today.

Tibetan Magic

The religion of Tibet is Buddhism, but that gentle faith is only a veneer; beneath, dark magical practices linger yet in the mountain vastness of this isolated land.

All the ceremonial objects shown here are made from human remains, and this reflects the obsession of the Tibetan sorcerers with death. Demons were omnipresent, and the

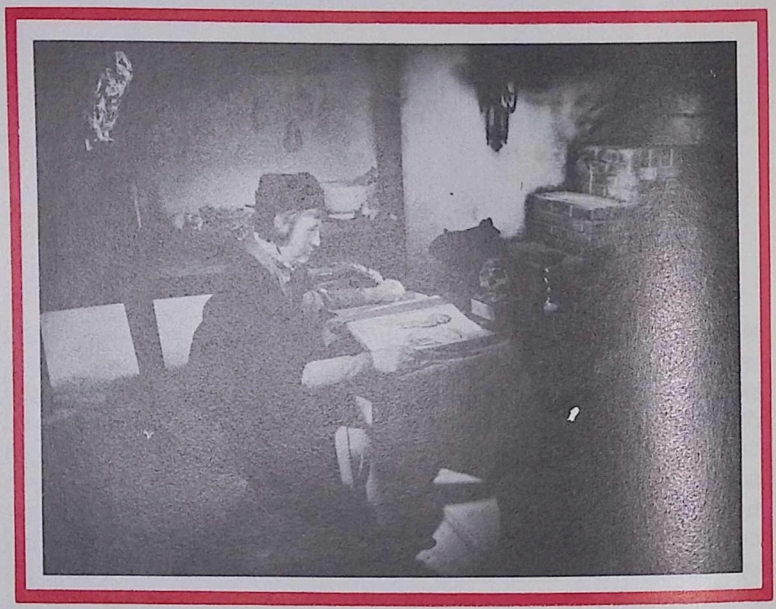
Shaman called them to his celebrations with his BONE TRUMPET. He writhed through the sacred Dance of Five Directions, while assistants pounded drums made of human skulls. When Yama, the god of Death, and his minions were conjured forth, the shaman fell into a trance in which he experienced a frighteningly real hallucination: the demons cut off his head, which was put on one side to watch the subsequent proceedings; the flesh was hacked off his bones and consumed by the hellish company; his skeleton lay before his eyes, picked clean. Only thus could he escape the bondage of the fleshly ego, know death, and return to minister to his people. Human sacrifice and cannibalism were – and perhaps still are in some places – routine; this ALTAR BOWL, which is made from the skull of a shaman, may have contained human blood as the celebrants sought to influence the weather, render harmless the cobra, and banish the "Terrifying Ones". Against them, too, the CEREMONIAL DAGGER was wonderfully potent; in some monasteries such a weapon would be accounted the most precious possession.

The Alchemist

How to make gold: twenty parts of platinum; 20 parts of

silver; 240 parts of brass; 120 parts of nickel. Melt, combine and cool – and presto – Gold!

So claims the Alharva Veda Sanskrit, an old magical text. There are other formulas. We all picture the alchemist obsessed with the desire to change lead into gold, but this was not his sole occupation. Alchemy is now seen as an ancestor of both chemistry and psychology, for the alchemist was seeking above all the secret of Life itself; he wished for nothing less than control over death and mastery of the soul.



HEINRICH CORNELIUS AGRIPPA VON NETTESHEIM (1486-1535) can well serve as the model for the medieval alchemist and sorcerer. Well-born and resourceful, Agrippa began his career as diplomat and spy for the German King Maximilian I. He soon became fascinated by the occult, particularly the Gematria, the branch of the Hebrew Kabbalah that was concerned with numerology. He became a famous authority, and at the age of only 24 wrote a remarkable book, *On Occult Philosophy*. By his own admission, he conversed regularly with the dead, and he became adept at many branches of wizardry.

Many are the legends that surround his memory. It is said

that Agrippa had a magic mirror that could show any moment of the past; his familiar was a huge black dog, with whom he shared his bed; demons materialised to do his bidding. It is small wonder that the Inquisition tried and imprisoned him. Somehow he escaped execution, but he died discredited and persecuted by the servants of the Church.

Charms and Amulets

Several objects carried by persons who hope thus to influence the future are gathered here. The FERTILITY DOLL is of the type carried by the beautiful young mothers of the storied island of Bali; allied in purpose is RHINOCEROS HORN, which is so popular across all of Asia as an aid to sexual virility that the white rhino is almost extinct.

Notice in this area the SACRED SHANK SHELL, from India. The Hindu feeds his ailing child from a shell like this, believing that speedy recovery will be the result. Also, the MOTHER OF PEARL NECKLACE, which carries with it the good luck that lies in natural, unsullied materials, such as shells, pearls, or natural coral formations. Italian children wear coral when it is shaped like a horn as protection from the Evil Eye. Here, also, is a DECORATED BOAR'S TUSK from the South Seas. Perhaps because of its phallic shape, the tusk is a fertility symbol: pregnant women wore it, hoping thereby to bring into the world a healthy and preferably male child.

The WOLF MAN DOLL recalls 16th Century European beliefs that placing such an image in a child's bedroom will protect him from the night-roaming monsters. From India comes our SILVER TOE RING; this symbol of wholeness and unity gave particular protection to that part of the body that is particularly vulnerable to thorns, cobra bites, and the deadly sting of the scorpion.

Here too is the MAGIC WAND of our childhood memories. The rod has been regarded as a powerful source of magic ever since Moses performed his miracles. We recall, too, the strange and undeniable powers of the water diviner, who, with a piece of forked hemlock, can detect water concealed many feet below the ground – even, we are told, on a map! This wand is crowned with a pentacle – the magic five-pointed or six-pointed star sometimes known as the Star of David, and to occultists as the Pythagorean sign of knowledge.

IVORY TOOTH CASKET: A sorcerer who had a wisdom tooth extracted would be afraid of having it fall into the hands of

an evil competitor who could use it as part of a spell against him. A casket like this protects it: the elephant lends its great strength, carved demons mount guard, and the wizard's familiar, an ivory dog, acts as the most potent sentinel of all.

ABRAXAS STONES: "Abraxas" (which is possibly a derivation of a Hebrew word meaning "blessings") is made up of Greek letters whose numerical value is 365. This number, as well as representing the days of the year, is also the number of Aeons, or emanations, that had made man, and the number of spirits that people the ether. Gypsies spread abraxas stones throughout Europe as good luck tokens. The word "Abracadabra", beloved of magicians and conjurors, derives from this source.

WIZARDS AND WARLOCKS

Nostradamus

Before the crowd, his blood shall be shed,
Who did not come far below the highest,
But the truth shall not be heard for a long while,
Until the spirit of one shall come to bear witness.

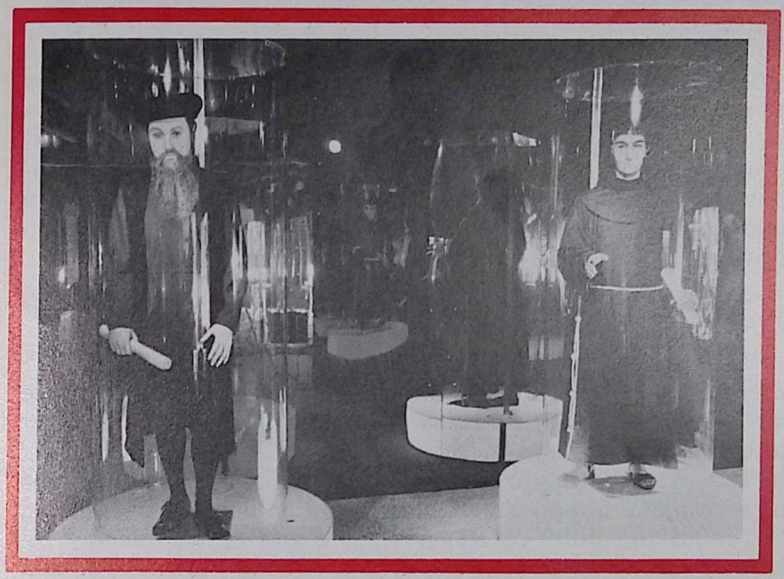
These lines, which are considered by many to refer clearly to the assassination of President Kennedy, were written in 1555 by a French physician, poet, astrologer and clairvoyant named Michel de Nostre Dame.

The book from which they come is called *The Centuries*; there is a series of quatrains of this nature, one hundred to a century. They are not arranged chronologically, so the task of fitting historical events to the right verses is a challenging one; nevertheless, the evidence is overwhelming that Nostradamus, as he was known, had a truly remarkable gift for foretelling the future. He foresaw the Great Fire of London, even giving the date; there are clear references to the French Revolution, which occurred more than two centuries after his death, including a detailed account of the illfated attempt to escape the guillotine by King Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette. The rise and fall of Napoleon are accurately recounted, and the references to World War II are awe-inspiring.

For the future, Nostradamus saw a general war erupting in the Middle East, and the year 1999 as a decisive one of

large-scale disaster, both natural and man-made, culminating in a long period of peace and plenty.

The seer apparently closeted himself in his study and arrived at his revelations by the use of a hazel divining rod, of the kind used by those seeking water. He received his images visually and recorded them as they came, without attempting to see a historical progression.



Dr. John Dee (1527–1608)

Although the range and depth of Dr. Dee's occult powers are open to question, he qualifies better than anyone else for the title of "Father of Psychical Research". A mystic with an uncommon intelligence, Dee became interested in magic when it was considered a legitimate branch of science: mathematics was also considered "magical" in the 16th Century. Agrippa's *Occult Philosophy* influenced Dee, and he became a famous astrologer. In that capacity he was Queen Elizabeth's court occultist; once, when a wax effigy of the Queen was found with a needle stuck in its heart, she called on Dee to utter an appropriate spell to save her from harm.

One day, the child-figure of the angel Uriel floated up to Dee's window and gave him an egg-shaped crystal, in which

the angel claimed Dee would be able to divine the future. He had little luck himself, but at this time he got to know a villainous but authentically psychic Irishman called Edward Kelley, who was very good at the art of "scrying". The pair toured the courts of Europe, discovering in the magic mirror the fate of crowned heads. All went well until Kelley announced that the spirits had instructed the two prophets to share their wives in common. Dee, whose wife was comely and much younger than he, was distressed, but apparently he complied. The resultant tensions seem to have become too much, and some weeks later the Irishman went off on his own. Dee returned to England, where he lived out his days on a small allowance from the Queen and continued his passionate search for that goal of all alchemists – the Philosopher's Stone, with its secrets of limitless wealth and absolute knowledge. He died aged 81, leaving the angel's crystal to posterity – it is now in the British Museum.

Roger Bacon (1214–1294)

"The Doctor of Wonders" they called this Oxford scholar and Franciscan monk, for his knowledge seemed to embrace all that was known in his time – and much that no one yet knew. He knew the properties of the concave and convex lens; he invented the magic lantern and the telescope, and he knew how to make gunpowder. There were no boundaries around the inquiring mind of Roger Bacon, and he was deeply interested in all aspects of the occult. Among his writings is a treatise on the production of the fabled Philosopher's Stone; *Mirror of Alchemy*, published in 1557, told posterity something about the mind of the medieval sorcerer and the arcane studies that fascinated him.

Bacon was imprisoned for ten years on the charge of practicing Black Magic; there was a widely-held belief that he had created a man-like android, who discharged whatever duties the strange old man gave it – whether for good or foul. As a scientist, Bacon had one of the most original minds ever to grace this planet; as a student of weird and hidden powers he ranks as one of the most interesting men who ever lived.

Occult Zoo

We now come to a collection of exhibits concerning animals in the realms of witchcraft and superstition. For example,

The Witches Mill, Isle of Man, Great Britain, where Gerald Gardner assembled over 10,000 historic objects dealing with the Occult. The collection became famous and was considered the foremost of its kind in the world. The collection was purchased by the Museum of Witchcraft & Magic, and brought to the U.S.A. in 1971.

the CROW: this black, raucous, elusive bird is as important as it is common, if we are to believe the superstitions that surround it. To foretell the future, learn how to interpret the 64 variations of the crow's hoarse utterance. And – be careful of the Crow: it may well be Raum, once an angel of the Order of Thrones, and since the Fall an earl of Hell, commanding 30 legions of demons. He visits the earth, old legends say, in the guise of the bird; for a consideration he will tell you the past, present, and future. Watch your valuables – Raum is an incorrigible thief. The BARNDOOR COCKEREL reminds us of a true story that took place in the Swiss town of Basle in 1474. It was whispered that a cock had actually laid an egg. With all solemn formality the bird was tried for witchcraft and found guilty. The result: roast chicken. The Senufor tribe of equatorial West Africa unwittingly associated themselves with the universal superstition that goats possess occult powers. The witchdoctor rides a RITUAL GOAT into a secluded part of the forest, and sits waiting, armed with a fly-chaser and a pail, for the desired shower of rain. The EAGLE WING FAN is used by a witch to fan the flames that heat her cauldron, hoping thus to borrow the strength of the mighty bird for her unholy brew.

The ALBATROSS and the SEAL hint at the abounding folklore of the sea. Sailors have long believed that seabirds, and

albatrosses in particular, harbor the souls of drowned seamen. To kill them is to invite instant disaster – as will be remembered by anyone who ever read Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem "The Ancient Mariner". A similar tale about the seal is found among the hardy souls who brave northern waters. Fascinated by its almost human cries, sailors thought it to be a mermaid in disguise, and so magical. Wearing its right eye in an amulet brought good fortune, the tongue carried in the shoe assures victory in battle, and the hair of the seal, added to an ointment, would cure almost any skin complaint.

The Wizard's Workshop

Earlier in our tour we met the master alchemist Cornelius Agrippa, and now in this section we see many of the objects with which he would have been familiar – and a few that perhaps he would have liked to know about.

What, then, do we mean by the term "Alchemy"? In truth, it has ever been all things to all men. Something like Alchemy was known to the Chinese about 7,000 years ago; the Western version seems to have originated in Alexandria early in the Christian era. It reached Europe through Moslem Spain and the tales of returning Crusaders; the name of Hermes Trismegistus, "Thrice-Greatest Hermes", a legendary philosopher who is linked with the Egyptian god Thoth, began to send shivers up the spines of superstitious peasants. Hermes invented magic, it was believed; his most famous work, *The Emerald Table*, was said to have been engraved upon an emerald by the Greek god Hermes and found by Alexander the Great in Cheops' Pyramid. Within this tome were all the methods by which the magician may invoke demons and receive answers to any question he wishes. He must make all his own instruments; inscribe his wand; and for nine days before he begins the rites he must fast and observe many ritualistic requirements. Then the invocation begins. It lasts about an hour; the first demons appear, then more, until finally a great crowd of horrendous creatures welcomes Satan, the King himself. The magician must mention the names of God and Jesus often, in order to keep the unholy crowd docile, and he must never step outside the charmed circle, or he would be torn to pieces. Finally the demons are dismissed – with courtesy and thanks.

So Alchemy was closely allied to magic, but for many there

was a nobler aim. While the medieval wizard sought to change base metals into gold (a practise that is today quite feasible, thanks to thermonuclear chemistry), this was to demonstrate that he had attained the power of God. To the Alchemist, such an advance was quite possible, for he believed that Man was a miniature replica of the whole Universe, containing within himself every power that Universe possessed. It was necessary but to know the way, and Man would attain his true God-like potential and master the secrets of Life and Death, and all Knowledge, past, present, and future. Through stillness and concentration, the Alchemist sought a higher state of Being. In his science and his art, he was the ancestor not only of the modern chemist and physicist, but of the poet, the yogi, and the psychologist – for to him the mysteries of the mind were of transcendent importance.

Alchemy never died. It exists today in the beliefs of the Rosicrucians, of many Masonic orders, and of all those who try by whatever means to reach harmony within, and with the forces of nature and society.

We have gathered for you here an enthralling collection of objects that recall the Alchemists of old. Notice the showcase that displays the **Alchemist's Stock in Trade.** Here you will see the bones of a lizard, the cure for epilepsy; spiders, which help insomniacs; the hateful TOAD, so baneful to one's enemies. Most interesting of all is the MANDRAKE ROOT. Many are the legends that have been inspired by the man-like shape of the root of the plant Mandragora. The Greeks thought that this was the food used to change Ulysses' men into pigs on Circe's island. Hebrews said that it grew in the Garden of

Eden in the shade of the Tree of Good and Evil. In rural Europe the tale was that the first men were huge plants, and the mandrake is a relic of our vegetable ancestors. If you place a mandrake root in a chest filled with gold coins, it will double their number every night. The magician who finds a mandrake must clothe himself with black robe and lead jewelry; with a virgin and a black dog he must go on a Saturday to the foot of a gallows and twist the neck of an owl. Then he may take the root and plant it in red soil. After three days it will come alive. It must be fed cat's milk, and then it will live for 40 days and answer any questions.

The Alchemist must protect himself from his enemies, and we have many such devices.

WITCH'S DEATH DOLL IN A COFFIN – Here is an attempt on the life of a Witch – a being notoriously difficult to harm. The doll wears the horns of the devil and a black veil, as double proof of her marriage to His Satanic Majesty. The red garter denotes her dedication to blood and to the sins of the flesh. The green heart indicates envy, the sure basis for the evil eye, which can be seen as a double pupil in her right eye. This specimen is modern: it was acquired following a California witch war.

MERCURY *BALL* – Ever an ally of the Alchemist, mercury was a substance with uniquely heavenly properites: it was ruled by Ophiel, Sixth Angel of Heaven, who could transmute it into a white stone. Forces of evil flee from mercury, so it was used in magical recipes, worn as an amulet, and hung in the home.

WITCH'S BOTTLE – This interesting exhibit came originally from the Middle East and turned up in New Orleans in 1928. When the bottle was opened, after considerable difficulty, the remains of a human heart were found, pierced by three iron nails. This is a very old method of neutralizing the power of the witch – known to every alchemist of days gone by.

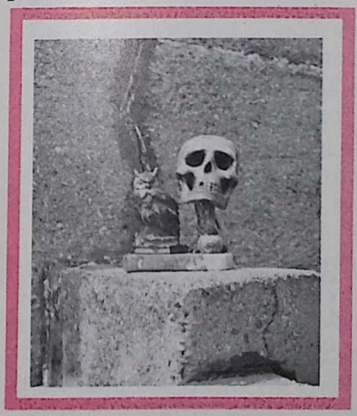
MOLE'S FEET were held to be particularly fortunate – because they were seen as phallic symbols, perhaps. In the west

of England moles' feet were carried as protection against rheumatism until well into the 20th Century.

IMAGE MAGIC – In the days before the discovery of viruses the victim of a disease had to do the best he could. So – make a doll as close to your likeness as possible and rub ointments on the part corresponding to your affliction. It just might work. If, however, your aims are malicious, a little later in this section you will see an example of the old method of visiting woe upon your enemy by sticking pins into an effigy.

SCRYING – We have already mentioned this ancient art in our discussion of John Dee and his associate, Edward Kelley. In this section you will see a scrying rod – a wooden rod set with a large crystal pommel, in which sometimes wizards confined hostile demons; and our luminous scene of a Crystal Gazer awaits you later in the show. Quartz crystal was once thought to be hardened water. It appears to be true that certain gifted individuals have been able to discern forms that suggest future events; the theory nowadays is that this property is not in the crystal but in the mind of the soothsayer, released through the intense concentration that scrying demands.

We have in this section a veritable laboratory of aids for the aspiring alchemist. Note the Mortar and Pestle, used to grind and mix powders for the diseases and cramps of the foot; the powder was rubbed on the foot and a copy of the Lord's Prayer on parchment placed in the shoe. Another MAGIC WAND awaits the gifted hand that can release its fairy powers, and there is a WIZARD'S INKWELL – made by him alone for the writing of spells and enchantments. Notice the owl – an old symbol of wisdom that recalls the Greek goddess Athena, whose symbol it was. THE BAT may seem to us a malign creature, with our thoughts about vampires and Dracula, but there are many good omens attached to this inoffensive animal. Its eye is a talisman for invisibility, and the heart bound to the right arm brings good luck at cards.



while the head attached to the same place defeats drowsiness. In Chinese amulets the image of a bat brings wealth, happiness and long life.

Anyone who ever read or saw Shakespeare's play *Macbeth* remembers the Three Witches, clustering around their hellish brew and chortling "Double, double, toil and trouble . . ." We recall the exotic ingredients of this infernal cuisine with such exhibits as:

Vervain Herb – Commonly used in potions and philtres, vervain was sometimes dried and worn in a bag around the neck as protection from scrofula, a hideously disfiguring glandular complaint also known as "The King's Evil" from the widely held superstition that the touch of the anointed monarch brought relief.

Dragon's Blood, sulphur, quicksilver and saltpeter – throw this mixture into the fire, repeat the name of your beloved, and, as the fire burns hot, so will the lover's heart for you.

Rose Petals; to be steeped in water with crushed vervain gathered on midsummer eve. Add a dash of oil. Anoint the lips, and anyone you kiss will be your slave.

Marigold – Soak in juice and red wine, blend in a white cock's feather. Drink a few drops daily for instant and permanent financial success.

Ashes of Weasel, oil, honey; sneak this mixture onto the toe of the one you love, and he or she will awake mad with desire.

Some Wondrous Stones

AMETHYST Many valuable properties have been ascribed to this beautiful stone. Its name comes from a Greek word meaning "not drunken", perhaps because of its wine-like color. We have it on ancient authority that if you drink out of a vessel made of amethyst you will never get drunk.

BLOODSTONE Also known as haematite. Sorcerers were inspired by the appearance of this stone to use it to curb bleeding and to clear bloodshot eyes.

LODESTONE More properly known as magnetite, the capacity of this stone to attract iron evoked the wonder of the ancients. The Greeks used it for healing, believing that it could draw diseases from the body. Mexicans thought it was alive; it was placed in water so that it could drink, and then given iron filings to eat. The Assyrian man rubbed himself with the lodestone before sexual intercourse, and his wife

applied iron powder. Placed under the pillow, it makes unfaithful wives talk in their sleep.

AMBER A fossil resin of coniferous trees, amber rubbed with cloth exerts a pull on other materials – so it has been deemed magical. In Europe amber beads are worn as protection against witches, and also the stones are ground into powder and added to medicines.

WITCHCRAFT AND THE DEVIL

Hag Witch – Here is the traditional hag witch, the very model of our image of this baleful creature – she who haunts Hallowe'en, rides the skies on a broomstick, and shatters the health and good fortune of all who cross her path. Yes, here she is – but what does she really mean?

She is, it has been believed, the possessor of powerful knowledge that is hidden to ordinary mortals. Long ago, the story goes, rebel angels mated with the daughters of men and taught their gifted offspring the true secrets of life and death. God saw them as a threat and sent His loyal angels to destroy them, but a few escaped His wrath. Their descendants are witches.

Certainly, there is a connection between witchcraft and ancient wisdom. The word itself comes from the Anglo-Saxon *Wicca*, which means "the wise ones"; the earliest patron was the goddess of the moon and night, whose commonest name was Diana. Associated with her was a horned god, part man and part beast – the spirit of Nature. Theirs was essentially a fertility cult, aimed at teeming the lands of men and the wombs of their wives.

Witches may be male or female, and the fact that they are nearly always shown in popular mythology as evil old crones is arresting. In many traditions, women are regarded as evil. Numerologists identify the number 2 as related both to the female and to the Devil. Medieval Christianity ascribed all human troubles to Eve's Fall in the Garden of Eden. Every mythology has an influence that is both feminine and destructive. So women are threatening; and the best time for a man to attack the eternal feminine is when she is old, ugly, and so unsexed. Most male magicians, from Agrippa to Prospero, are benevolent, however superficially terrifying they may be: they mean well. Magic, when practised by a woman, is expected to be spiteful, and doubly so when she no longer has the saving grace of sexual attractiveness. Thus, for those who are interested, this hag witch may stand before you as a prime example of male chauvinism!

The Devil and his agents possess irresistible powers, believers say; yet they can be persuaded not to use them, if objects for which they have distaste are deployed. We begin, then, by examining an assortment of defences against their hurtful designs.

The Witch's Pantry

There are two kinds of witches. The Black Witch works her magic for selfish ends, often with the intention of focusing or increasing her occult powers in order to bring harm to her enemies; the White Witch casts her spells with a benevolent object in view – to save life, or avert catastrophe. It is with the dark variety that we are concerned here as we study the furnishings of the Witch's Pantry and the instruments that are displayed nearby.

There are herbs, stones, oils, powders, bones; an earthquake pill, skulls, and jars of bird bones. Beeswax is ready for the making of images: the witch will add to her little sculpture whatever she can find that is part of her intended victim – nail parings, a clipping of pubic hair, semen or menstrual blood from a soiled sheet. Then she will stick pins into the part of the anatomy that she wishes to see racked with pain, repeating the Lord's Prayer backwards and praying to her master Satan. The only cure for the victim, if he becomes aware of what is ailing him, is to repeat the 109th and 119th Psalms daily.

Her WAND is designed with three heads, to represent her

An original drawing by Gerald Gardner shows a witch flying her broomstick to a Sabbat at the "Witches Mill".

familiars – in this case the owl, the cat, and the dog. The Witch might acquire her familiar from the Devil, as a sort of party favor handed out at the Black Sabbat, or she might convert any harmless animal to her service by feeding it a little of her own blood and uttering the appropriate incantation. Dogs, toads, vipers, crows and hares were common choices for the role of familiar, but the favorite was a cat, the animal whose imperious independence has engendered worship and awe since the time of the ancient Egyptians. The familiar lived long, far in excess of the normal life span of the species. The witch often fed her creature with her own milk from one of the secret paps she had somewhere on her body.

When the time came for her to attend the Sabbat her familiar assumed her shape and lay peacefully in bed – a perfect alibi in case of suspicion.

In these showcases are various curios related to witchcraft, and particularly to defences against witchcraft. These latter range from YORKSHIRE CORN DOLLIES, which are placed on the tops of haystacks to protect the crops, to HORSE BRASSES (even today a familiar sight in English pubs) and such plants as WITCHHAZEL, BAY LEAVES, and GARLIC. The last is especially revered as an antidote to evil: the only infallible way of destroying a vampire is to drive a stake through his heart and stuff his mouth with garlic.

The European of three centuries ago was as concerned as we about the problem of security – but more than marauding burglars he feared supernatural visitors. The TWO DOOR-KNOCKERS we show represent different approaches to the danger. The GARGOYLE was meant to be a representation of a demon, and if such a creature tried to trespass it would be turned into stone or iron itself. The HAND uses good to combat evil. The hand has always been thought to be a symbol of strength and benevolent power – indeed, of God Himself. That Islam joined Christianity in this belief is shown by the HAND OF FATIMA. She was the beloved daughter of Muhammed, and Moslems saw her hand as a symbol of their religion – each finger had a significance. In the Middle Ages, representations of the Hand of Fatima were made in such a way that the true believer could learn his destiny by relating the letters of his name to numbered segments of the hand; if he did the same for an adversary he could discover how the conflict might be resolved.

When primitive man first discovered IRON the virtues of this useful metal so impressed him that he assumed it must be an agent for supernatural good, and so the enemy of evil. All over the world Iron is used as a safeguard against demons and witches. In Morocco a knife is placed under the pillow of a sick man. When a woman dies in childbirth, Hindus place a nail in her shroud to stop her returning to claim her child. The Roman historian Pliny claimed that nails drawn from a tomb should be driven into the threshold, for then the occupants are safe from nightmares.

The horseshoe is a fine thing to have, particularly if it is found by chance. It must be hung with its open end facing upwards, or the luck will run out. It is the best of guardians for the doorway, for no witch can pass it without suffering great agony:

Straws laid across my path retard;
The horseshoe's nailed, each threshold's guard.

Among the assortment of lucky amulets you will see in this section are iron keys, which contain the iron anti-witch virtues as well as their more mundane utility. Other amulets are the rose, symbol of silence and beauty; the button with star and crescent, symbol of paradise; the circle, which means eternity; and the H shape, which shows the connecting influences ruling the many aspects of man.

The Young Witch

Here the young witch readies herself for the flight to the Sabbat; as you see, witches were not always ugly crones. She smears herself and her broomstick with flying ointment . . . in which the fat of murdered babies, belladonna, and aconite were likely to be principal ingredients. Aconite is a deadly poison, and if even a small amount is taken into the system through a scratch in the skin the result is likely to be a troubled dream with impressions of floating or movement. Thus perhaps did the tradition of flying witches originate, as women recounted their imagined experiences under interrogation; but there are many cases of levitation vouched for by respectable witnesses, so who knows?

The Witch's Wheel

An interesting artifact indeed is the WITCH'S WHEEL, or Mechanical Coven. Sometimes the witch needs to cast a spell of such intricacy that the help of others is needed; if the other 12 members of the coven are not available, this device multiplies her powers. Herbs, powders and other material are placed in the receptacle on the top wheel. The magic number three gives stability, so there are three legs, wheels, and images of cats. Painted on the wheels are the various ancient symbols of air, earth, water, etc., and the witch's familiar, the cat, is depicted on the hub of the vertical wheel. At the edge of the two movable wheels are drakes' eyes, which help the operator to see in the right direction. Feathers give flight power.

THE BOWL OF HUMAN BONES suggests the initiation of new witches at the Sabbat. The bones of a hanged man were particularly effective, especially if they were stolen from his grave at a propitious time. Sometimes the bones were ground and mixed with wine to make a potion for Satan to drink.

Baphomet

Our path now leads us down a corridor, where on the way you will see the SATANIC MASS; a taped narration reminds us of the blasphemous use of this travesty of the Roman Catholic Mass to call forth the demons of Hell as patrons and rulers of the Witches' Sabbat. And now before you glowers the horrifying form of BAPHOMET OF MENDES, the Satanic goat-

ruler of the Witches' Sabbat, as drawn by the 19th-Century French mystic Eliphas Levi; the master image appears on the facade of the Saint-Merri church in Paris.

The name "Baphomet" is usually regarded as a corruption of Muhammed, who, after Islam's sweeping victories in the 7th Century A.D., was taken by Christians to be an incarnation of the Devil. An Arab pagan god is in the ancestry of this goat-headed creature, but the animal has been both venerated and cursed for centuries before that. The goat was a symbol of male virility to the Ancient Greeks; Dionysos, the god of orgy and Life Force, was associated with it. The nature-spirit Pan and satyrs were half men, half goats. When one religion is superseded by another, the gods of the first often become the demons of the second, so it was not long before Christianity seized upon the beast as an incarnation of Satan. In this capacity it was condemned as the presiding genius over

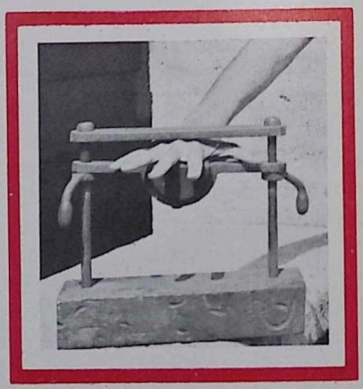
the witches' Sabbat, where the creature copulated with all present and also required them to kiss his behind.

The figure is a compendium of occult symbolism. Levi himself called his drawing "a pantheistic and magical figure of the Absolute". The monster is hermaphroditic, with a phallus shaped like a caduceus and the breasts of a woman. All four elements are represented – the head for fire, the wings for air, the scales for water, and the legs for earth. The torch stands for divine revelation, and blazoned on his forehead is a pentagram, symbol of knowledge.

So there he sits, a manifestation of Satan – who is both the relic of pagan nature religions and the personification of the principle of evil. All men – and none more than the Christians – have concluded that there must be a force in the world that runs counter to the benevolent and loving Ruler – for how otherwise can there be famine, plague and death? Such a Force has been known by as many names as his great Adversary: Tiamat, Set, Kali, Lilith, Satan, Lucifer – and Baphomet.

THE PERSECUTION

The medieval Catholic church, beset by various heresies, established the Inquisition at Toulouse, France, in 1229. The Dominican Order became a sort of secret police, charged with the task of destroying all those whose views differed from the ones that were officially sanctioned. It was not long before witchcraft became a prime target. The first official execution was in 1275; from then until the practice ended in 1771 more than 2,000,000 human beings were hanged, strangled, burned, or tortured to death for real or supposed commerce with the Devil. Such a tale of horror has only been surpassed in this century by the Nazis' slaughter of the Jews.



In 1485 there was published a book called *Malleus Maleficarum* – The Hammer of the Witches. It contained full instructions on how to identify a witch, and all over Europe, "witch-finders" were in full cry, "testing" anyone who appeared to be remotely suspicious. Sometimes they were paid so much per witch caught, so there was a premium on assigning guilt, even on the flimsiest of grounds. The witch-finder carried special long, sharp pins with which to impale the suspect: if a spot was found that was impervious to pain, that was proof positive, for it was well known that Satan presented each of his converts with such a special place. In England, where the notorious Matthew Hopkins killed hundreds of persons during a year-long investigation, "swimming the witch" was the usual test: she was thrown in the duck pond. If she floated, she was a witch; if she didn't – well, perhaps she could be fished out in time. If she were lucky she would be weighed against the great parish church Bible – but she had better be a buxom woman, for witches were always lighter than the Good Book. Another test was to ask the suspect to repeat the Lord's Prayer. A witch can never do it without stumbling.

Many were the crazed, lonely old women who were burned for no other reason than their age and oddity. One pathetic story relates of a poor senile dodderer who warmed her hands at the flames that were to consume her, babbling merrily about "the bonnie fire".

Among the most famous victims of the purge was JOAN OF ARC, the French military heroine who confounded the military might of England, aided, she said, by "heavenly voices". They stood her up before no fewer than 165 wise men, not one of whom could shake her story that she was in direct communion with Heaven. So in 1431, at the age of 19, Joan was duly burned at the stake for witchcraft. It is said that her heart was found in the ashes, unconsumed.

In this section you will also see a blood-curdling collection of torture instruments similar to those used in the dungeons of the Inquisition: THUMBSCREWS, BRIDLE MASKS, FLESH SAWS, and a SPIKED CHAIR of the type that was used to extort confessions.

THE REVIVAL

Interest in witchcraft and the occult never died out, but there were periods when it lay dormant. Most historians date the present resurgence of fascination with these arcane matters from the middle years of the nineteenth century. We begin our examination of this period with a series of exhibits that concern Death and man's age-old questioning of this most terrible and inevitable of facts.

Spiritualism

The belief in ghosts has always been universal, but "spiritualism", meaning a belief that the souls of the dead can communicate with the living through the agency of persons known as "mediums", dates from the mid-Nineteenth Century. On March 31, 1848, three young sisters named Fox heard strange raps from a ghost who announced that he was a murdered pedlar by the name of C. B. Rosma, and that his bones could be found in the cellar. The directions proved accurate, and within a few months, the little girls were giving demonstrations of ghostly signals in crowded halls.

Much of what followed was fraud of varying degrees of cleverness, as spiritualism invaded the music halls and the

drawing rooms of credulous onlookers. Yet there remains a lot of unexplained mystery about many of the seances that were conducted. Apparitions have been conjured forth under controlled conditions that allowed for no possibility of deceit; information has been given by spirit voices that could have been communicated in no other understandable way than by one who, though dead, still could speak. Not only tables have been made to levitate, as shown here – the great Scottish medium, Daniel Dunglas Home, in the 1870's, regularly made grand pianos float upward in broad daylight and seemed to be able to levitate his own body.

The first spiritualist church opened in Milwaukee in 1893, and now there are more than 400 such churches, with almost 200,000 members in the United States. One denomination, the Universal Church of the Master, with headquarters in San Jose, California, now has more than a hundred member churches scattered across the country. There are many magazines catering to spiritualists, and there has never been a time when more people have been convinced that the spirits of the dead can indeed talk to us – and that there must be a life after death.

Death

The theme of Death dominates religion and her half-sister, magic, in all cultures, at all times. The CHINESE GRAVE GUARDIAN, a fantastic human-headed demon straight out of a nightmare, has his cousins in the angels that pray above a western tomb: both are efforts to insure safe passage for the departed, with no unholy violations by evil meddlers, but instead the intervention of gracious spirits.

The trappings of the funeral are rooted in very old traditions. The use of CANDLES, for instance, stems from the belief that light is needed to guide the soul in its journey to the eternal home. A flame beside the coffin also ensures that the ghosts will not linger to haunt the survivors, for spirits are afraid of light. THE WREATH probably originated as propitiation to the spirits of vegetation; its use later became associated with the idea of making a ghost happy with the tribute of a triumphant crown for a life well lived and consequent assurance of a blissful hereafter.

What seems a morbid idea is exemplified by the HUMAN HAIR BOUQUETS. These were often borne on the coffin and later retrieved, so that a part of the deceased may remain with the

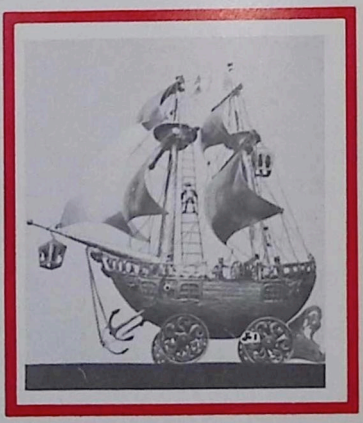
mourners. Sometimes a lock of hair from a loving survivor was buried, thus perpetuating symbolically the ancient custom of entombing the wife and servants of the dead man so that he may not lack company and aid in his journey to Paradise. The hair of the deceased was often fashioned into a form of jewelry; examples of this rather gruesome art in our collection include rings, brooches, and watch fobs, all dating from the Victorian era. From the same period comes our assortment of jet jewelry.

So many are the signs that have been considered as boding death that we can only show a representative few here. Those who claim to divine the meaning of dreams say that BROKEN STRAWS, WHITE FLOWERS, DRIED FLOWERS, BROKEN COLUMNS, and a SILVER ARROW all mean impending death to someone near if they appear in dreams. We show, too, the ACE OF SPADES, the most doom-ridden card in the pack: Spades are a sorrowful and tragic suit; not only is the Ace the highest card but it is also the Thirteenth – and we all know the connotations of that number.

Other specimens of special interest in this area are:

BUDDHIST DEATH TOKENS – These were obtained from the Methodist Missionary Society in China. Impressions of coins are printed on paper and buried with the dead so that he can pay his way through the underworld; this method was preferred to burying real coins because of the prevalence of grave robbers. A similar custom was common among the ancient Greeks, and has survived with the custom, still occasionally encountered today, of placing coins on the dead man's eyes.

SHIP OF DEATH – As primitive man surveyed the ocean, stretching as it did beyond the utmost limit of his sight and ken, he concluded that the mystery that lay beyond might well be the land where the dead are housed. He pictured the soul as boarding a spectral ship, which would materialize out of nowhere, filling the house with the sound of a stormy sea. As the sound diminishes, so does the soul pass on its pilgrimage to eternity. Usu-



ally the direction taken was expected to be westward, to the place where the sun so mysteriously vanished every day. The belief in the Ship of Death is almost universal: from Egypt to China, there are such myths.

The Cross

Perhaps the most widely venerated symbol in the world is the Cross – and not only among Christians. Hindus, Buddhists, Jews and many pagan cultures have revered the form, and in the field of magic, the power of the Cross is decisive: the horizontal bar stands for the terrestrial or passive axis, the vertical, the celestial or positive. All the forces that bear upon man are thus indicated. None of the denizens of Hell can withstand the might of the Cross.

From South America comes the CRUCIFIX FISH – actually the skull of the catfish, which strangely resembles the Savior on the Cross. The FAIRY CROSSES of the Blue Ridge mountains, the charming legend tells, are the petrified tears of fairies who heard of the death of Jesus. The SAND DOLLAR SHELL bears the design of the poinsetta, the flower of Christmas; the underside has five openings, for the five wounds in the body of Christ. Also in this group are various ANATOMICAL CHARMS and CHURCH PIECES.

Franz Anton Mesmer (1734–1815)

The word "mesmerism" – a synonym for hypnotism – was coined from the name of this Viennese physician, although he was not actually the discoverer of the phenomenon. Mesmer's contribution to human understanding is almost as interesting. He believed that the world is bathed in an invisible psychic "ether", which ebbs and flows like the oceans in response to the pull of heavenly bodies. These tides, he claimed, keep us healthy; sickness means there is some blockage, which can be removed by the use of magnetism. Mesmer used to carry about large magnets, which he pointed at the patient's afflicted parts. Later he discovered that his own body exuded magnetism, and he was able to effect cures without instruments. He seems to have met with much success, and he became the favored healer of Louis XVI's court at Versailles. He fell from his position following charges that he sexually exploited some of his patients; the French Revolu-

tion brought an end to his practice, and he was forced to flee the country.

Hypnotism was discovered accidentally by one of his pupils, the Marquis de Puysegur, when he was trying to magnetise a patient by stroking his head and murmuring soothing words. An Englishman, John Braid, gave hypnotism its name in 1843.

Both hypnotism and Mesmer's "animal Magnetism" interested George Washington, who heard about it from his friend, the Marquis de Lafayette. Today hypnotism is recognized as a medical fact, although we are no nearer to understanding just how it works.

Hecate – Queen of the Witches

As you pass by the fortune teller, listen with care to the wise words of Hecate, Queen of the Witches. Her spirit lives within the magic crystal, from which she honors us with both the sight and sound of this legendary personage.

MODERN DAY WITCHCRAFT AND SUPERSTITION

Unlucky Friday

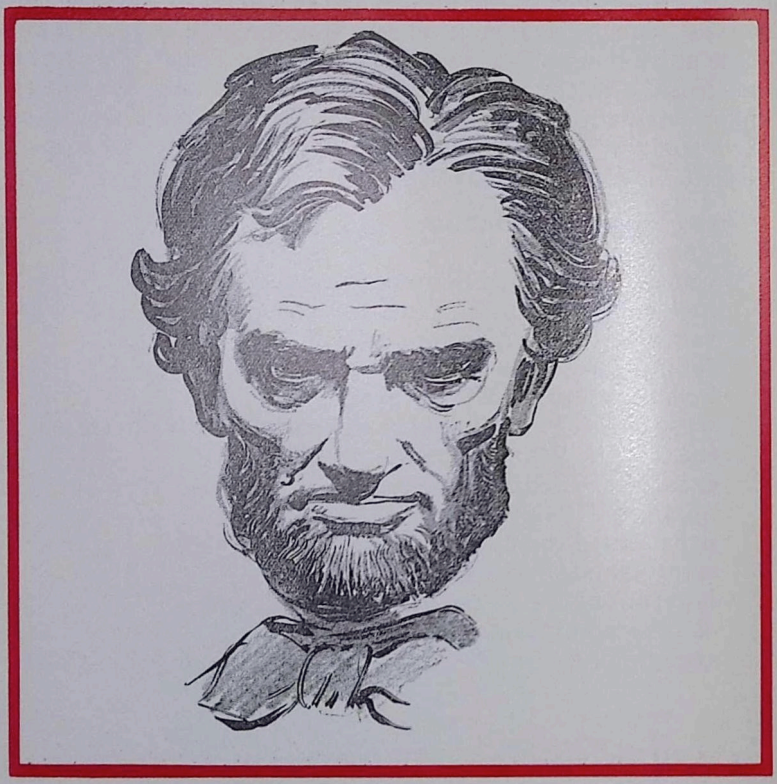
Now that we have visited other times and other places, it is right that we should consider how witchcraft and superstitions still rule the lives of supposedly rational 20th-Century man. Many modern hotels and office buildings do not have a 13th floor; rabbits' feet and other amulets sell briskly; in April, 1973, the fishing fleet in British Columbia, Canada, refused to set out to sea on the lucrative first day of the commercial season because it was Friday the 13th. Why Friday? Some say because that was the day of Our Lord's Passion on the Cross, but, for whatever reason, Friday has always been linked with witchcraft and bad luck. Yet, it cannot always be so. Consider these startling coincidences in the life of GEORGE WASHINGTON.

On a Friday, Washington:
was born
was commissioned lieutenant-colonel
took command of the army of Virginia
was elected commander-in-chief
fought the battle of Princeton
won the victory of Yorktown
was elected President of the Constitutional Convention
created the War Department
created the State Department
appointed his first cabinet officer
proclaimed the first national Thanksgiving
established the federal capital
laid the corner-stone of the White House
completed his last Presidential term
accepted his second commission as Commander-in-Chief

Lucky "7"

A similar strand of destiny runs through the lives of many people, great and small – almost as if some divinity has made his presence felt by ordaining the repetition of a pattern. With Abraham Lincoln, it was the number Seven – appropriately, for this is the most magical of numbers. LINCOLN (7) lived 7 years in Kentucky and 7 years in Salem. He was

a private (7), a captain (7), and elected 7 times. He was sworn into Congress December 7, 1847, held 7 offices in succession in Springfield. In the election of 1832, 7 votes were cast against him. His ancestors came from Hingham (7), county of Norfolk (7), England (7). He moved at the age of 7 to Spencer (7), Indiana (7), was 7 years in the State Legislature, had 7 debates with Stephen Douglas (twice 7), fought slavery (7), appointed 7 cabinet ministers. Seven States seceded; his best general was U. S. Grant (7), and Lincoln died a few minutes after 7 p.m. in a theatre (7) on the 7th day, to be succeeded by a man named Johnson (7).



If you look at the GREAT SEAL OF THE UNITED STATES, you will see that there is a reverse side: ours is the only country with this distinction. Its significance is rooted in myth. There is a tradition that Americans are the incarnated souls from

the legendary continent of Atlantis, and this is officially perpetuated by the symbol of the Great Pyramid of Egypt and Atlantis. The eye on top is a protection from evil influences.

Tarot Cards – Tradition tells that the Keys to all wisdom lie undiscovered in the centre of the Great Pyramid of Gizeh: the Golden Key of Astrology, and the Silver Key of the Tarot. Some believe that this strange pack of cards is at least 35,000 years old, and that it derives from the Book of Thoth, the Egyptian god of wisdom. There are also theories that the Hebrew Kabbalah is allied with the Tarot.

Modern scholarship has been unable to substantiate these beliefs. The first reference to the Tarot in Europe is in 1392, when a French artist named Gringonneur designed a pack for the mad King Charles VI. The collection contains 78 cards: 22 pictorial ones, standing for every aspect of the human experience, known as the Major Arcana; and 56 divided into the four suits of coins, cups, swords, and wands – the Minor Arcana. Each card is pregnant with archetypal meaning and has been found a fruitful subject for the divination of the future, or, by deep meditation, the unlocking of the depths of the unconscious mind.

Charms and Amulets

An 1835 cast iron good luck piece shows a rabbit, which for obvious reasons is a potent symbol of fertility, and the traditional four-leafed clover. Finding one of these, the Irish say, brings four kinds of good luck: fame, wealth, health and a faithful lover. There is a charming tradition that the four-leafed clover is the one plant from the lost Garden of Eden that Eve was allowed to take with her. To find this token of God's generosity is to enjoy His blessing.

Many are the charms and amulets carried by people today, for all their supposed sophistication. We have some rather unusual samples. They range from a horseshoe that has been fortified by a variety of other good luck charms to amulets made of substances believed to be fortunate: copper, fine for protection against diseases; silver, to cure toothache; suggestions of the owl, the symbol of wisdom, and the spider who, for all its unpopularity, spins a web that may ensnare the Devil himself and halt his evil doings. The delicate grace of the edelweiss helps to protect skiers in the Alpine regions of Europe. The lock is one of the earliest known "machines", so

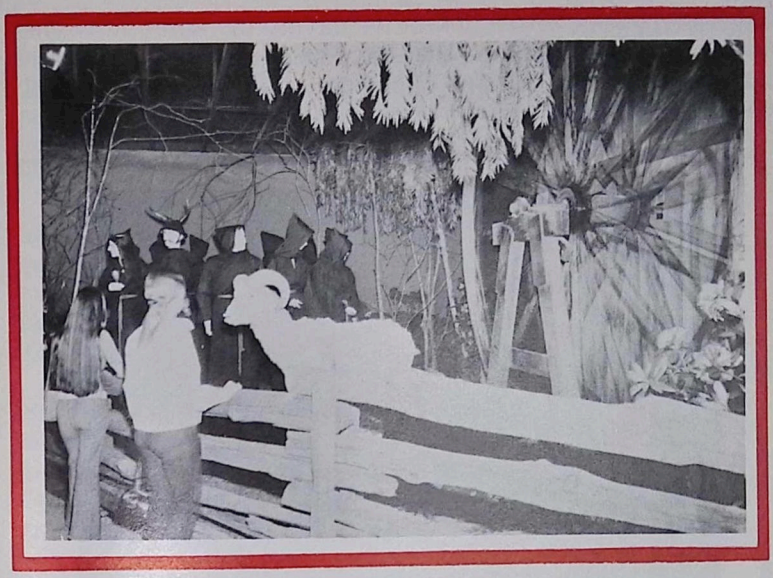
it is natural that the key was seen in medieval days as symbolic of knowledge, love and understanding, which will all come when the human soul is truly opened to the world; thus, a key is a lucky thing to carry.

Jewelry was originally worn to avert the Evil Eye, not for decoration, and two necklaces honor this tradition. One features elephants, the magical seven in number. The "Devil Bone Necklace" is so named because of Puritan attitudes to gambling: dominoes are "devil bones" and dice, "devil teeth". The gambler needs aid from the infernal regions if he is to win; he must not, however, allow the hellish imps to take possession of his soul, so the beads supply heavenly protection.

Sometimes jewels are so ill-starred that nothing can save the hapless owner. The HOPE DIAMOND (44½ carats) is a famous example. It is part of a great stone that was known as the French Blue. Stolen from an Indian Mogul, it was owned by the French Queen, Marie Antoinette. She was guillotined. Other owners were Prince Ivan Kanitovitsky, who was murdered, and Sultan Abdul Hamid of Turkey; he lost his throne. The last owner, Miss Evalyn McLean, died at age 25. The Hope Diamond now reposes in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, and there are some who say that all our national misfortunes can be attributed to this.

The Modern Witches' Coven

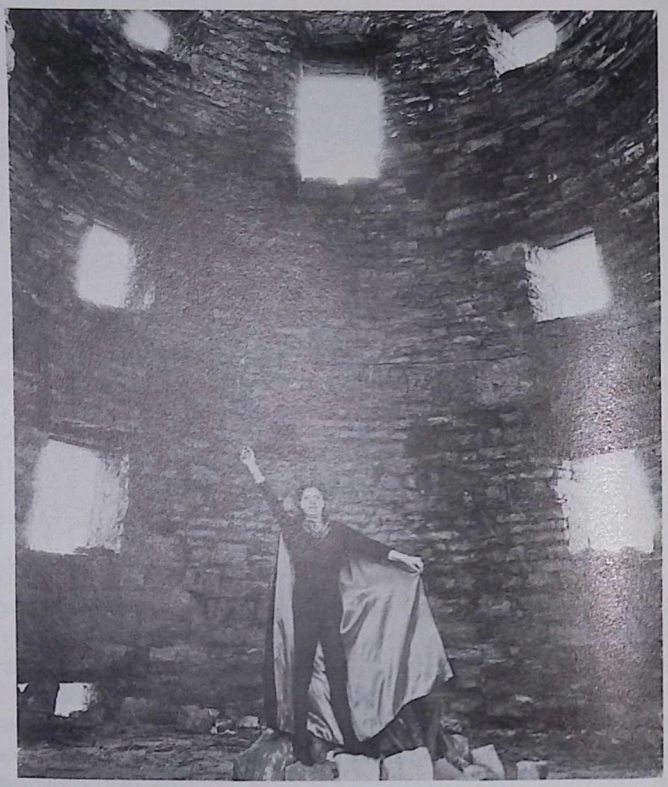
The scene is of such exquisite blasphemy and horror that it has inspired countless artists, story tellers, and myth-makers. From their lairs gather the witches and sorcerers, flying on broomsticks anointed with the fat of murdered children to some desolate and lonely place. There they welcome their Great Master, Satan himself, in the guise of Master Leonard, King of the Sabbat – a towering figure, eight feet tall, half man and half goat, three great horns on his head, his eyes green and baleful. He welcomes the grisly horde with a gesture of his claw-like hands, and all clamor to kiss the second face he wears on his backside. Children are initiated with awful rites, while those who are found unsuitable are torn to shreds and served to the throng in a stew. Then Master Leonard ravishes every one of the participants, male and female, a signal for the beginning of a wild and depraved orgy. All join in the bacchanalia; toads, dressed in scarlet and black velvet, dance with the sorcerers they will serve



eternally as familiars. The cock crows; the roars and cries diminish to a whimper, the Goat fades into mist, and all return to their homes, fortified for another year of wreaking malice upon the God-fearing. Another Walpurgis night is over.

How close the modern witches' coven comes to emulating this Gothic image is anyone's guess. Certainly there are far more witches in Europe and the United States than one would imagine: probably more than at any time in history. They organize themselves into groups of 13; perhaps the thinking is that if the number is unlucky for ordinary people it must be good for devotees of the Black Arts. These covens gather periodically, although not every occasion would be as important as the dawn of May 1 in the example given. In point of fact, modern covens vary in their aims. Some exist as a pretext for free-wheeling sexual activity; many are quite puritanical, dedicated to the worship of the old pagan Horned God of Nature and the Goddess of the Moon; research is the motivation of still others, as followers seek to find out which of the old traditional rites bring some kind of results. However we may regard the phenomenon – as childish superstition, the deadly release of destructive and superlatively dangerous forces, the self-important posturings of sexually

repressed kooks, or the honest endeavors of men and women to recapture great truths that have been lost to modern man – the covens are a feature of our present culture, and likely to remain so.



"Lady Olwen", Gerald Gardner's "High Priestess" and one-time "Queen of Witches" in Great Britain, is seen inside the "Witches Mill", Isle of Man. Lady Olwen inherited the famous Gardner Witchcraft Collection, which now forms a large part of this Museum.

Wedding Superstitions

If witchcraft is the practice by women of magical rituals that are meant to influence the future then every woman who

can look back on a "traditional" wedding has practiced witchcraft. All the well-loved customs with which we adorn the day of nuptials have their roots in paganism, except, perhaps, those that symbolize the possession of the woman by the man – which would seem to many women today even worse.

Many of the customs, as might be expected, have to do with hoped-for fertility for the young couple. The orange tree is one of the few plants that produce flowers and fruit simultaneously; the former are white, virginal and pure, the latter, large and copious. So, by wearing orange blossoms, the bride shows both her innocence and her promise.

The history of the wedding cake goes back at least to the Romans; it was not until 17th-Century Britain that the multi-tiered confection that we know first made its appearance. But the importance was always the same: food is a symbol of fertility, and by eating together, the bride and groom ensured themselves of fair progeny. Some must always be kept, to ensure the husband's fidelity – at least until the birth of the first child cements the union.

Shoes, too, are often a symbol of fertility; Eskimo women used to carry a piece of an old shoe for this purpose. Some believed that a man's soul transferred to his shoes, which always preserved his essence. Throwing shoes, then, is a sign of good luck; but the shoe also denoted the ownership of the woman by her husband, and it was thrown after the departing pair by her parents to show the passing of a piece of property.

The wedding ring has similar connotations. In primitive days, the man bound fetters around the wrists and ankles of his captured wife. The custom nowadays of placing the ring on the third finger of her left hand came partly from the old association of the right with power, and the left with submission; and partly from medieval ideas of anatomy, which held that a nerve leads directly from that finger to the heart – thus ensuring her fidelity.

The bridal veil also symbolizes the submission of the woman to her master, although other allusions cluster around this custom. The veil shut away her former personality, so that a new one could emerge; it concealed her from demons jealous of her beauty; it is perhaps a carry-over from the days when the mass was celebrated behind the closed curtains of the sanctuary.

Other traditions exhibited in the museum are:

* The wax hands from the top of a wedding cake used in Berkeley, California in the year 1901. Such trophies have always been kept as good-luck tokens.

* The wedding bows in the pillow; luck is tied into the bows by the gift-giver, and so they should not be undone. When they are gathered into a pillow for the bridal bed, as here, unending love and fair children will result.

* The bride's charm bracelet: this was worn from the moment of engagement until the ceremony, and then was carefully put away for the first-born daughter. The charms, with their meanings are:

Heart	Love
Cross and Bible	Divine blessing
Bells	a scourge of evil
Thimble	a happy home
Star	health
Heart and Lock	the key to the bride's heart
Ring	an unbroken marriage

Extrasensory Perception – ESP – In 1969 the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the most important, prestigious and conservatively cautious research association in the U.S., took an epochal step. The American Parapsychological Association was admitted to full membership and thus to a state of brotherhood with more than 300 scientific societies. Extrasensory perception was officially accepted as a scientific fact.

This today would be hard to deny. Since 1927, when an English-born psychologist named William McDougall established the world's first parapsychology laboratory at Duke University, Durham, N.C., there has collected an awesome body of research on the ability of some persons to react to the thoughts of others. The first directors of the Duke institution were Dr. J. B. Rhine and his wife Louisa; it was they who invented the set of five cards, bearing different symbols, which are mainly used in the experiments. The accuracy with which these concealed cards are guessed by the subject is statistically evaluated, and some of the results have demonstrated it is more reasonable to believe in ESP than in

chance: one example of many is that of a New York woman who guessed correctly the first 15 out of a run of 25 cards. The odds against this happening by chance are 30,000,000,000 to one. During the journey of Apollo 14, astronaut Edgar Mitchell mentally transmitted ESP cards to earth; while the results were not so spectacular, they still ran well ahead of chance probability.

In 1943, experiments showed that the human mind can have an effect on the fall of dice, and there are stories of telepathic individuals who make a good living at Las Vegas. Recently, under controlled conditions, psychics have apparently picked up images from other people's dreams.

Are we all psychic? Some people believe so, and indeed it is probable that you, or someone you know well, has had an experience in which thoughts have apparently been intercepted. Perhaps indeed the capacity for extrasensory perception lies within us, a vestige of an earlier stage of development. To support this, one startling area of experimentation may be mentioned. One scientist attached a modified lie detector to a plant, and threatened it with a lighted match. The line zoomed upwards, suggesting an emotional reaction on the part of the plant. Then, some time later, he *thought* about threatening the plant – and the line went up again!

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